Persons found guilty in connection with sanction of Fake Telephone Connections

1873. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the rules relating to allotment of out-of-turn telephone connections;

(b) the details of persons authorised to grant such connections;

(c) what is the annual discretionary quota of ministers and other persons who are empowered to grant such out of turn connections;

(d) what is the number of connections sanctioned and released from discretionary quota of Ministers of Communications and other authorised persons during the years 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992 and so far in 1993;

(e) whether there have been any cases where fake sanction letters were used to procure telephone connections from discretionary quota;

(f) if so. what are the details in this regard; and

(g) what action has been taken against guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Sir, out of turn telephone connections are sanctioned after objective assessment of the urgent and genuine needs of the prospective subscriber.

(b) The Minister for Communications, Chairman Telecom Commission, Director General, Telecom and Advisor (O) Telecom Commission are "empowered to sanction telephone connections on out of turn priority basis in the Directorate. In the Circles, the respective CGMs are empowered to sanction out of turn telephone connections in respect of MPs quota, besides sanctioning telephone connections in deserving cases in OYT-S and NOYT-SS Categories and in respect of additional telephone lines with incoming facility for public utility services/PBX and PABX/ electronic PABX in OYT General Category.

(c) There is no limit to the discretionary quota of sanctioning authorities.

(d) The number of connections sanctioned by Ministers (C), Chairman (TC), Member (S) and Advisor (O), at their discretion, for the years 1989. 1990. 1991, 1992.

1989	12685	
1990	14898	
1991	29922	
1992	25107	
1993	6978	(Upto 31-7-93).

The information regarding the telephones sanctioned on out of turn basis by CGMs is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) During the year 1991, some complaints of issue of fake sanction letters for telephone connections on out of turn priority were received. After preliminary investigation, the case was handed over to the CBI for detailed investigation as involvement of outsiders was suspected.

(g) CBI have registered cases for investigation. Searches were conducted by the CBI at residential/business premises of some suspected persons at Delhi, Chandigarh, Ludhiana, Mathura, Meerut, Agra and Patiala. Some incriminating documents have been seized and 13 accused persons including 8 departmental officials have been arrested. Action against the persons involved will depend upon the results of investigation by the CBI.

Non-acceptance of Money Order of small amount by Post Offices of Hyderabad

1874. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Post offices and Sub-Post Offices in the industrial town-ships around Hyderabad are not accepting Money Orders for small amounts;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Post Master General has been apprised of this problem; and

(c) if. so, what steps are being taken by the Government to issue clear and unambiguous instructions to all post offices that money orders of any amount should not be refused?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, such instance has been brought to the notice of the Postmaster General, Andhra Pradesh Circle.

(c) All post offices are bound to issue money orders up to the maximum value of Rs. 2,000. Clear instructions to this effect already exist. Fraction of a rupee is, however, not allowed in money order.

Facilities *to* Public Telephone and Booth Owners

1875. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Public Telephone Booths operating in the country;

(b) whether Government have received any representation from public telephone and booth owners regarding more facilities; and

(c) if so, what are the details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) There are 2/73 lakhs public telephones, including Panchayat phones, as on 30-6-93.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Some representations mainly for enhancement of the commission, provision of incoming call facility, service charges etc. have been received. The incoming call facility has already been ordered to be restored in all public call offices (Both Local and STD) and commission revised as under as per the revised policy on STD PCOs:

Upto 10,000 calls — 20P/Callunit

V. 10,000 to 20,000 calls — 15P/Call unit.

Beyond 20,000 calls — 10P/ Call unit.

मध्य प्रदेश में टेलीफोन कनेक्शनों के लिए प्रतीक्षा सूची

1876 श्री राधा किशन मालवीय : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) 30 जून 1993 की स्थिति के अनुसार मध्य प्रदेश में नए कनेक्शनों के लिए कुल कितने व्यक्तियों के नाम प्रतीक्षा सूची में दर्ज है और

(ख) प्रतीक्षा सूची में दर्ज सभी व्यक्तियों को कब तक टेलीफोन कनेक्शन दिए जाने की संभावना है ?

संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुखराम) : (क) मध्य प्रदेश में 30-6-1993 की स्थिति के अनुसार नए टेलीफोन कनेक्शनों के लिए प्रतीक्षा रत व्यक्तियों की कुल संख्या 91,636 है ।

(ख) आठवीं योजना के उद्देश्यों बड़ी टेलीफोन प्रणालियों में प्रतीक्षा अवधि को घटा कर दो वर्ष करना तथा ग्रामीण जनजातीय क्षेत्रों में आठवीं योजना अवधि (1992-97) के अंत तक व्यावहारिक रूप से मांग होने पर टेलीफोन कनेक्शन प्रदान करना शामिल है । तदनुसार इन उद्देश्यों को पूरा करने के लिए एक्सचेंजों का विस्तार किया जा रहा है ।

Procedure followed in appointing the C.M.D. of MTNL

1877. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the norms and procedures followed by Government in the appointment of the present incumbent and his predecessor Chairman and Managing Director of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL).